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Jun-17-04 06:06pm From-WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK

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JUN 17 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:	10/016,984	Confirmation No.	4963
Applicant:	Dykes	Filed:	12/07/2001
TC/A.U.:	3731	Examiner:	THALER, MICHAEL H.
Docket No.:	21917-P0031US		
Customer No.:	31,886		

For: **PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS**

VIA FACSIMILE 703-872-9306
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER


Enclosed are the following:

1. Response and Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111;
2. Form PTO/SB/82;
3. Form PTO/SB/81; and
4. Form PTO/SB/96.

It is believed that no additional fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deposit any overpayment or charge any other fees, which may be required by this paper, to Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C. Deposit Account No. 23-2426 (reference 21917-P003US).

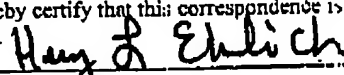
Respectfully submitted,
WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C.

June 17, 2004
DATE


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 17, 2004.


Henry L. Ehrlich
Name (Printed)

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21917-P003US 06/17/2004

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Date	<u>June 14, 2004</u>
Name (Signature)	<u>Henry L. Ehrlich</u>
Name (Printed)	<u>Henry L. Ehrlich</u>

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office action of March 7, 2004, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.